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January 5, 2010

Senator Kevin Witkos  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3400  
Hartford, Connecticut 06019

*RE: Offer to serve on advisory committees or legislative taskforces for the 2010 legislative session on behalf of the Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly and to inform and facilitate initiatives emphasizing self-responsibility, early intervention, and the low-cost, high-yield strategies of wellness programs.*

Dear Senator Witkos,

My name is Steve Paine and I am one of your constituents from Canton. I read your bill: "An Act Concerning Wellness Incentives", Substitute Bill No. 962 (\*\_SB00962APP\_042809\_\*) with interest and enthusiasm. I congratulate you. In whatever capacity I am able, I would like to work with you and the Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly to implement practical applications of provisions of your bill. I have an extensive background as a practitioner, organizer and speaker in the area of Preventive Medicine and Corporate Wellness. I offer to provide support to 2010 legislative initiatives emphasizing self-responsibility, early intervention, and the low-cost, high-yield strategies of wellness programs.

From my undergraduate days at Union College in Schenectady, New York, and throughout my professional career, I have been living and promoting the principles and practices that you have managed to get into law. At Union, as president of the Student Social Action Committee and chairman of the Schenectady Food Co-op, I helped revamp the food services program and implemented nutritious, organic, and vegetarian alternatives. As president of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association, I helped our practitioners within the

Workers' compensation and No-fault insurance plans, to use exercise, proper diet, emotional and attitudinal, counseling to assist injured workers and drivers to return to work more quickly and at a lower cost than the patients of other practitioners. Our association was commended by the Hawaii state legislature for helping to reduce the cost of treatment of injured workers.

In Hong Kong, where, until one month ago, I had been living and working for eighteen years as the only American licensed to practice and Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, I continued those efforts. For the past three years, as chair of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Health and Wellness committee, I have worked closely with my colleagues in the Chamber and within the Hong Kong business community to develop programs and practical examples of wellness programs to assist in the revision of the Hong Kong Government's Hospital Authority.

In February 2009, I hosted the American Chamber's first annual full day seminar, entitled *"Return on Investment through Corporate Wellness Programs"*. Keynoting the seminar was the former governor of Hong Kong and a staunch advocate of healthy living and preventive medicine, Sir David Akers Jones. We attracted highly-regarded advocates of early intervention and lifestyle medicine including Dr. Judith Mackey, recipient of the British Medical Journal Lifetime Achievement Award for work in curbing smoking world wide; Professor Anthony Hadley, who created the Hadley index which measures the hospital costs of pollution and smoking on a minute by minute basis; and, Dr. CS Lee, Director of Corporate Wellness for Procter Gamble's 10,000 plus employees in the Asia Pacific region. The seminar echoed the conclusion of more than 500 international peer reviewed studies, that every dollar spent on reducing health risks and on early intervention yields more than five dollars in reduced costs and increased productivity of the workforce. Wellness programs, strategies which induce self-responsibility, are the highest and best use of the healthcare dollar.

In December 2008, I was asked by Roche (Switzerland), makers of Tamiflu®, and medical publishers Elsevier Health Sciences (Holland), to co-chair a distinguished panel of international experts in a seminar entitled *"Corporate Pandemic Preparedness in Asia Pacific."* This forum was covered in the press throughout Asia and provided a further indication that lifestyle choices including proper diet and hygiene, regular exercise, meditation, prayer and other stress reduction strategies have a large influence on the capacities of individuals, companies and populations to cope more successfully with pandemics.

Finally, and most directly relevant to your bill, I've worked closely for the last three years with Swiss RE a reinsurance company the largest in the world which does the actuarial work and writes the policies for insurance companies all over the globe. I have enclosed in this letter a copy of the most sophisticated and popular of the wellness insurance plans which is being sold by Prudential insurance throughout the world, but not to my knowledge, in Connecticut. I would like to help you and your colleagues interest insurers in the private and public sector with this template or policy.

The National Guild of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, AFL-CIO member, Local 62, of which I am the delegate for New England and New York, will be using this template from Swiss RE sold by Prudential, , as an offering to members of police, return all, municipal, state, and Federal, it is union members. We embrace it because it makes explicit many of the same lifestyle modifications upon which Chinese medicine bases it's consultation advice. The result is a win for insurers, as these policies are popular, a win for employers, as they result in a healthier workforce, and a win for states, as the utilization of other more costly health care services is significantly reduced.

Wellness is a noble and highly worthwhile political goal. On April 5, 2009 I had the honor of spending a day with Senator John McCain when he and Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina came to Hong Kong for an informal ocean cruise with the leadership of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the United States Consul General's office. Having enjoyed his books Character is Destiny, Why Courage Matters: The Way to a Braver Life, and Worth the Fighting For and having spoken earnestly with him, there is no better example of one who leads a self-responsible life emphasizing healthy thinking, exercise and diet than John McCain.

Senator Witkos, I have recently returned to the United States with my wife, Cheryl, and my children, Shandie, 12, Jaira, 8, and Everett, 4. I settled in Connecticut because it is the land of my birth and the home of my family for eleven generations. I love my country and I love my native state. I would like to get busy working here and make a significant contribution with the knowledge and experience that I have gathered.

In summary, Senator Witkos, I offer to serve on advisory committees or legislative taskforces for the 2010 legislative session on behalf of the Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly and to inform and

facilitate initiatives emphasizing self-responsibility, early intervention, and the low-cost, high-yield strategies of wellness programs.

Would you kindly let me know if I can be of service, Senator Witkos?

Respectfully,

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January 5, 2010

Senator Kevin Witkos  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3400  
Hartford, Connecticut 06016

*RE: Request for assistance with acupuncture licensure in Connecticut*

Dear Senator Witkos,

Senator Witkos, I have recently returned to the United States with my wife, Cheryl, and my children Shandie, 12, Jaira, 8, and Everett, 4. Our family has been living in Hong Kong, where, until one month ago, I had been practicing for eighteen years as the only American licensed to practice Chinese medicine in Hong Kong. We settled in Connecticut because it is the land of my birth and the home of my family for eleven generations. I love my country and I love my native state. I would like to get busy working here and make a significant contribution with the knowledge and experience that I have gathered. However, for the moment least, my ability to practice my profession has been denied me.

I received a letter (enclosed) on September 15, 2009, from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, stating that my application to practice acupuncture in Connecticut had been denied.

There are two methods by which individuals may be licensed in Connecticut.

The first is elaborated in Section 20-206bb, Connecticut General Statutes. The reason cited for my denial under this statute was as follows:

(Paragraph 6, page 1, letter from Department of Public Health to Stephen Lord Paine, September 15, 2009): *"Your application has been reviewed and it has been determined and you are not eligible for acupuncture licensure as outlined above as you are not a graduate of an acupuncture program accredited by the ACAOM"*

It is true that I did not graduate from an acupuncture program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, (ACAOM). However, I could not have graduated from such a program as ACAOM was not yet accrediting schools when I was training 28 years ago. I did, however, graduate from a program approved by the California State Board of Medical Quality Assurance, whose standards are generally viewed as more stringent than those of ACAOM.

In my application for Connecticut licensure, I enclosed documentation for the Connecticut Department of Public Health which demonstrates that I have far exceeded the minimum requirements represented by the ACAOM. I completed 608 didactic hours of the 850 didactic training required by schools accredited by the ACAOM, at California Acupuncture College. In order to comprehensively understand my field, I completed an additional 1550 didactic hours by graduating from a Comprehensive California Medical Quality Assurance Board approved tutorial program. Beyond that, I completed an additional 270 hours of didactic training prior to certification by the National Board of Acupuncture Orthopedics, for a total of 2428 documented didactic training hours in the United States (chart on page 2 of my enclosed May 16, 2009 letter to the Connecticut Department of Public Health). This total exceeds the 850 didactic hours required by the ACAOM by 1578 hours.

In order to more fully develop the competency which would allow me to safely and effectively treat patients, I completed an additional 238 hours of didactic training at the Advanced Acupuncture Training Program in Beijing, sponsored jointly by the WHO (World Health Organization) and the China Ministry of Health, which is generally believed to be the most prestigious acupuncture training program in the world. Beyond that training, I completed an additional 250 hours of didactic training at the Postgraduate Institute of Oriental Medicine in Hong Kong, for a total of 488 hours of international didactic training. In sum, I have submitted documentation for 29 didactic hours, including 608 of the 850 didactic hours required by the ACAOM, 2428 of which were in the United States.

The second method by which one may be granted licensure in Connecticut is: (Paragraph 7, page 1, letter from Department of Public Health to Stephen Lord Paine, September 15, 2009) ...*"pursuant to Section 20-206bb(c), Connecticut*

*General Statutes, which authorized the Department to grant a license by endorsement to an acupuncturist who is currently licensed in another state, if such state has requirements for licensure determined to be substantially similar to, or higher than those of this state..."*

The reason stated for denial of licensure under the statute is as follows: (Paragraph 1, page 2, letter from Department of Public Health to Stephen Lord Paine, September 15, 2009) *"This office has reviewed the statutes and regulations from the Hawaii Board of Acupuncture and it has been determined that the licensure requirements for acupuncture in Hawaii are not similar to or higher than those of this state. Specifically, Hawaii does not require completion of 60 semester hours, or its equivalent, of postsecondary education and does not require successful completion of a course in clean needle technique..."*

Union College has submitted documentation that not only have I completed 60 semester hours of postsecondary education, but I have received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Union College in Schenectady, New York. This is the equivalent of 120 semester hours, according to the U.S. Department of Education ([www.ed.gov/international/usnei/us/credits.doc](http://www.ed.gov/international/usnei/us/credits.doc)).

I've also submitted documentation of my having successfully completed the Clean Needle Technique Portion (CNETP) of the Comprehensive Written Examination (CWE) of the National Certification for the Commission of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Acupuncture (NCCAOM) Examination.

Cited as a reason for denying my licensure was: (Paragraph 1, page 2, letter from Department of Public Health to Stephen Lord Paine, September 15, 2009) *"...applicants who are educated and trained outside of the U.S. may be eligible after an individual review and equivalency determination is made. Connecticut law does not provide the Department the statutory authority or administrative discretion to accept a third party determination of equivalency of education completed outside of the United States to that of an ACAOM accredited program."*

There is no need to consider my international education training as I have already far exceeded the didactic and clinical hours required for licensure in Connecticut, and, on the basis of my U.S. training, I have been licensed in Hawaii since September 4, 1990.

I therefore submit that I have not only met, but have exceeded, the statutory requirements to be granted a license by endorsement as an acupuncturist is who is currently licensed in another state.

Senator Witkos, I respectfully request your help in getting licensed by asking you to introduce legislation on my behalf. May I have a meeting with you and with your legislative assistant(s) to discuss the specifics of my request?

I've spoken with senior officials within the Department of Public Health and within the Connecticut General Assembly and have been offered their support in helping me become licensed in the state of Connecticut. What is required is a rider attached to a bill. These officials have offered to provide you and Representative Tim LeGeyt with the specific language of this rider. My understanding, Senator Witkos, is that both you and Representative LeGeyt, as the elected officials in my district, would need to sponsor the rider to the bill. My understanding is that the acquiescence of the Public Health Committee's Ranking Members, Senator Dan DeBicella and Representative Janice Geigler; Vice-Chairs Senator Gayle Slossberg and Representative Linda Gentile; and Co-Chairs Senator Jonathon Harris and Representative Elizabeth Ritter would also be required.

The health and the safety of the Connecticut citizenry would be well-served by my licensure. Will you help me get licensed, Senator?

Respectfully,

Stephen Lord Paine

Attached (SEE BELOW): Letter from Department of Public Health to Stephen Lord Paine, September 15, 2009





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May 14, 2009

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
OFFICE OF PRACTITIONER LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION  
ACUPUNCTURIST LICENSURE UNIT  
410 CAPITAL AVENUE, MS# 12APP  
P.O. BOX 340308  
HARTFORD, CT 06134-0308

Dear Connecticut Acupuncturist Licensure Unit,

I am submitting additional information for your consideration which I trust will result in my endorsement for Connecticut acupuncture licensure.

Connecticut has every right to expect that anyone granted the privilege of practicing acupuncture in the state should be competent and well-trained. The documentation I present here I will establish that my training and my clinical experience are exceptional.

Having begun my acupuncture training more than 25 years ago, I performed due diligence and identified the best educational opportunities in California, Hong Kong, China, and Hawaii. My applications for training were accepted and I completed extensive training. I have documented that training in my submission.

The minimum requirements for Connecticut are for 1350 hours of didactic and clinical training, of which 500 are clinical hours. I have enclosed documentation of 4008 hours of didactic and clinical training, of which 2916 are didactic and 1092 are clinical hours.

Here is a summary:

Source of training	Didactic	Clinical	Didactic & Clinical
Calif Acupuncture College	608	0	606
Calif Approved Tutorial Program	1550	700	2250
China Ministry of Health / WHO	238	147	385
Postgraduate Institute OM	250	200	450
National Board of Acu Orthopedics	270	45	315
TOTALS	2916 DIDACTIC	1092 CLINICAL	4008 CLINICAL AND DIDACTIC

Beyond what is minimally required for licensure, I have logged more than 30,000 hours of clinical practice in my fulltime clinical practice from 1988 to 2009. I have logged an average of approximately 1550 clinical visits per year. This is based on a weekly clinical visit average of about 31 patients. For stretches of my career, (as indicated in the enclosed letter of reference from Dr. D. Scott McCaffrey of WorkStar Occupational Health Services, Hawaii), I have averaged more than 60 patient visits per week.

Beyond competency in the academic area, a practitioner should perform to the satisfaction of those who employ him and to the satisfaction of his patients. I have presented several letters of endorsement from those who have contracted my services as a licensed acupuncture practitioner. I have also provided a number of patient evaluations which demonstrate that my performance on their behalf was more than satisfactory.

An additional measure of my standard of competence is the fact that I am the only American who has been permitted to practice acupuncture in Hong Kong. I've enclosed in my submission evidence of my authorization to practice in Hong Kong.

I have here included a number of articles which I have written and interviews which I have given to various news media over the last twenty years. I am the author of all the materials included in my website [www.stevepaineomd.com](http://www.stevepaineomd.com) which

has received high praise from peers, clients and internet rating services, particularly [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).

I have done my best to integrate into the conventional medical system having worked with medical doctors for my entire 20 year career. I have also given hundreds of public talks to explain and promote Chinese medicine.

I have worked to raise standards of practice within the field. I served as president of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association and was instrumental in helping create and gain the adoption of "*Acupuncture Practice Guidelines*" for Hawaii which have served as a model for other state acupuncture associations. I have, for many years been active in NOMAA, the National Oriental Medicine Accrediting Agency, [www.nomaa.org](http://www.nomaa.org), serving as a commissioner of NOMAA and currently as the Hong Kong advisor for NOMAA.

I was recently selected to represent New York State and the New England states for the National Guild of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, an AFL-CIO member organization. (endorsement enclosed)

In order to promote the principles of Chinese medicine, which emphasize preventive medicine, self-care, and responsibility to others, I created and have served as chairman since July 2007 of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Health and Wellness committee. The American Chamber in Hong Kong is the largest international American Chamber and represents more than 800 of the largest American companies doing business in Hong Kong and China. On April 5, 2009, I met with Senator John McCain (R-Arizona) and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) who expressed their support for our efforts.

In December, 2008, I was asked by the Dutch medical publishers Elsevier Health Services / Excerta Medica (Greater China) to chair the event "*Corporate Pandemic Influenza Preparedness in Asia Pacific*". The panel which I chaired consisted of international experts from England, Australia, and China and was a major media event. (Programme Book enclosed)

On balance, I believe that my credentials, my training, my clinical experience, my demonstration of social responsibility and my service to both patients and the larger society, have demonstrated beyond any question, my acceptability for licensure as an acupuncturist in Connecticut.

I intend to help acupuncture integrate more fully into the western medical system and to work closely with conventional providers and allied health professionals.

Acupuncture can be of enormous help in resolving the health issues that face Connecticut's residents. I hope to be a leader in the field elevating the performance of my fellow acupuncturists and serving all the citizens of the state of Connecticut.

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